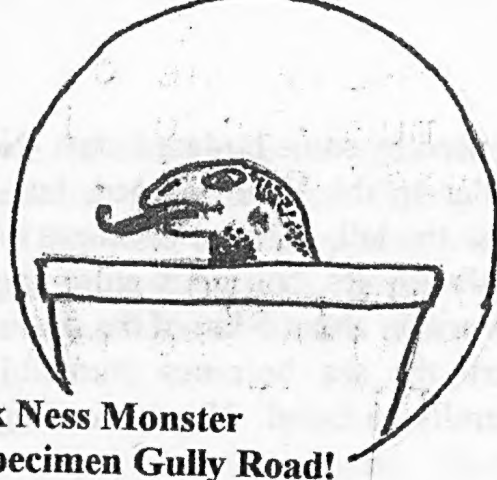


Castlemaine Naturalist

July 2005
Vol. 30.6 #323



Tasmanian Pelagics - Nigel Harland.

Last time, you may recall, I made a trip to Western Australia and achieved my 600th Australian bird. I mentioned that on the way home I had discovered that a pelagic trip was taking place off the southeast coast of Tasmania. On arriving at the airport in Melbourne, Anne headed home and I headed for the check-in desk. The flight back from Perth arrived in Melbourne at around 4.30pm and I was booked on the 9.00pm flight to Hobart. I tried unsuccessfully to get on an earlier flight, so settled down to some airport food (?) and the Age cryptic crossword. Before long I learned that the flight had been delayed and was due to leave at 11.30pm. We eventually took off at midnight, arriving in Hobart at around 1.00am. The hire car company had left someone on the desk, so I could pick up a car and set off for Eaglehawk Neck, arriving there at about 2.00am.

I managed to get straight to sleep, but woke up at 5.00am, well in time for the 7.00am start. I decided to try the trip without seasickness pills – a decision I was soon to regret! The ship, or perhaps I should say boat, left soon after 7.00am with a group of six people who had been with Philip Maher on the road in Tasmania for a week, together with four or five others. The sea was reasonably calm, with a swell of less than half a metre, but it was not long before I needed to find the very small toilet and say goodbye to breakfast and whatever was left over from the previous night. Once that was gone, I could settle down and concentrate on the bird life!

Early in the piece, we found a large rock that was covered in cormorants, from a distance they looked like Little Pied Cormorants, but as we approached they were identified very clearly as Black-faced Cormorants. These are birds of the coastal areas and can be found off the south coast of Victoria. The boat was being followed by large numbers of Short-tailed Shearwaters, a dull brown bird with amazing flight capabilities. Flying close to the tops of the waves, they never seemed to touch them. Then the first albatross was seen, the Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross - a relatively small albatross, with a wingspan of around two metres. These smaller albatrosses were referred to as Mollymawks to distinguish them from the larger species. It was a term used by seafarers and is

still used by some birders today. Next was another albatross, Buller's Albatross. Similar to the Yellow-nosed, but with a greyish head and yellow above and below the bill. Then a Southern Giant-Petrel flew past, about the same size as the albatrosses, but much more ungainly in its flight. These birds had all been seen within about 5 km of the shore and we had yet to cross the continental shelf, where the sea becomes incredibly deep and different species of bird can generally be found. Hopes were high.

A bird that was relatively easy to identify was the Common Diving-Petrel. Identification was possible because of its behavior rather than its plumage. It is a small stocky bird which flies low over the water and plunges into the water, using its wings as flippers. It emerges almost quail like, before plunging in again. Next was another albatross, the relatively common Shy Albatross, somewhat larger than the previous two, but still a Mollymawk.

At about this stage we had crossed the continental shelf and were about 10km from shore, so we stopped and put out food to attract the birds. Before long we had quite a collection, many of the birds previously seen together with some new ones. The Fluttering Shearwater had become fairly common, dull brown on the back, white under the wing with a brown trailing edge. Also the Great Skua – a dull brown bird with a short hooked bill. The White-chinned Petrel was the least nervous, coming very close to the boat for its rewards. This is again a dull brown bird with a light (almost white) coloured bill. The white chin is absent in many birds and the most we ever saw was just a smudge of white on a few birds. Then the first major highlight – one or two Royal Albatross flew past. These are quite magnificent birds, with a wingspan of up to 3.5 metres. A white head and wings, which have black trailing edges, more pronounced on the upper side and a pinkish bill. The Sooty Shearwater is very similar to the Short-tailed Shearwater, but slightly bigger, with a slower flight.

Moving on, we found one or two Great-winged Petrel, another dark brown bird, quite large with a light patch just behind the bill. A second stop was a real highlight, as well as many of the species previously seen we managed to attract the Black-browed Albatross, another larger bird with black upper wings and black edges to the underwings. A yellow bill with a pinkish tip is also diagnostic. Then the real highlight, a group of five Wandering Albatross. These settled on the water and some were really fearless and came incredibly close to the boat. I became seriously regretful that I had not brought my camera! The bird has a 3.5 metre wingspan, a pinkish bill, white head and body with mostly black wings. There is some beautiful black barring on the white plumage of the back. It is also a very greedy bird, taking most of the meat thrown overboard. It sometimes happens that so much is eaten, the bird is unable to take off for some time. At this stop, four species of Albatross were all within 20 metres of the

boat – an unbelievably spectacular sight. Once we could take our eyes off this amazing sight, we realized there were two species of smaller birds flying fast, less than 30 metres off the side of the ship. They were both grey-brown birds with patches of white. The one with white just on the upper tail coverts was a Wilson's Storm-Petrel and the other with more white on the sides and underwings was the Grey-backed Storm-Petrel.

We had travelled some 25km out to sea, so it was time to turn around. On the way back we made one more stop and enticed the Northern Giant-Petrel and White-headed Petrel close to the ship and on the way home we spotted Gould's Petrel, a delightful bird, basically grey-black on the top and pure white underneath (with black edges to the wings). The last new bird we found was the relatively common Fairy Prion. So, back to Eaglehawk Neck and I wandered, rather unsteadily, back to the car. Returned the car and checked in for the 7pm flight back to Melbourne. True to form the flight was delayed until 11.30pm and I sat next to a baby which cried all the way back to Melbourne. Anne picked me up and we drove home, arriving at around 2.00am. I had spent some 33 hours on the trip and managed 3 hours sleep. That would normally be disastrous, but it was probably the best day's birdwatching I have done for ages. 18 new species (622) and a new ambition set – 700!!

Hérons Reef 11/6/05. Leader: David Bannear.

David Bannear was our leader for a visit to Herons Reef, a 48 hectare heritage site near Chewton, where 1200oz. of gold was extracted by various methods during the early gold rush days.

David reminded us that heritage parks are about place not use. What we have in this park is a place of historical importance where evidence remains of various activities undertaken by miners after gold was discovered in the area in the early 1850s. Unlike other gold rush sites, throughout the world, that have long since disappeared under building sites and carparks, this is a site where with you can walk among ruins in a bushland setting not unlike those the early miners operated in. This is a place where with just a little information (and a few interpretive drawings) and a measure of imagination it is possible to be transported back to the early gold mining days.

Our first stop was at a ground-sluicing site. Ground sluicing is a fundamental method of mining that involved the construction of timber wash ways on the side of slopes alongside small dug out areas or "paddocks" from where soil was taken and cast into the washways. Gravitational flows washed away the dirt leaving behind the heavier trapped gold particles. This activity would have only been possible in the wet months of the years. Evidence of this work is visible scattered among the coppiced trees and wattles that are gradually reinhabiting

the site today – back then trees would have been scarce - wattle bark was used extensively in the leather tanning process and Ironbark trees were used for building and railway sleepers.

Further along we were able to see evidence of where the gold was hydraulically sluiced using water pressure.

Battery sand alerted us to a site where a battery plant once operated (around 1870) crushing the coarse rock and enabling the amalgamation process to take place - by floating the crushed quartz over mercury the (heavier) gold would sink to the bottom.

The Chinese were the second largest ethnic group at the diggings after the British. When more efficient methods were developed the Chinese miners continued to use alluvial mining methods because they were cheaper. Some areas were actually set aside for the Chinese miners, who had grown quite old by this time, so they could continue to fossick for a living. Most of these miners were linked to two wealthy Chinese merchants in Melbourne. Today, David told us, Chinese visitors to the site are particularly moved by the poverty of these Chinese camp ruins.

Further along at the ruins of the Cornish Beam Engine House, David's drawings drew much discussion about the workings of the plant. Next we moved on to the charming site of a well-preserved miners cottage complete with stone wall and remnant fruit trees. Occupied by a fossicker until as late as the 1950s, the passage of time and the powers of nature had made fewer inroads to this site.

Hérons Reef is part of the only immigrant gold rush in the history of the world – where many of the 200,000 people who arrived, stayed to form a new country. Walking through this lovely bushland setting after the long awaited rain was a treat but we had also been transported back in time by the excellent commentary of our leader and helped to appreciate the uniqueness of this very special heritage site. Thanks, David.

Geraldine Harris

Bird Counts along Forest Creek.

Castlemaine Urban Landcare has plans to revegetate the section of Forest Creek between Happy Valley Road and Colles Road. Much of the Gorse has been removed. After the Gorse is under control, more extensive planting will take place. To assist in monitoring, two 2-hectare sites have been set up. Regular surveys of this area are desirable, so that the changes in bird populations can be noted over time. **If you are able to help, I can provide maps of the area showing the site locations.**

Ern Perkins

Bird Surveys at Chinamans Point.

Over the time Lesley and I have been making 20 minutes surveys in a 2 ha section of Chinamans Point, there has been a steady increase in the number of birds recorded.

The average number of species/visit has been

2002 5.0	2003 7.1	2004 7.7	2005 9.6
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On the last three visits, (12/4/05, 7/5/05 and 23/6/05) the birds recorded have been

Common Bronzewing	1		1	
Grey Fantail	2		1	
Red-browed Firetail			5	3
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	6	2		
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	2	2		
White-naped Honeyeater	9+		6	
New Holland Honeyeater	3	2		
Magpie	1		3	
Striated Pardalote	5	2		
Spotted Pardalote		1	3	
Australian Raven			2	
Yellow Robin			1	
Crimson Rosella		1	3	
Eastern Rosella	1			
Eastern Shrike-tit			1	
Silvereye				9+
Varied Sittella		5		
Yellow Thornbill		1	1	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill		2		
Brown Thornbill	5			
Striated Thornbill	1		1	
Red Wattlebird	9+			
Weebill		9+	9+	
Golden Whistler	1			
Dusky Woodswallow		9+		
Superb Fairy-wren		3	6	

Over the year, this is a total of 26 species. By comparison, in some nearby 2 ha bushland sites, the average number of species/visit recorded in 2005 has been 1.3 (Wattle Flat), 0.2 (Spring Gully), and 2.3 (Kaweka).

These figures will be less than the actual number present at Chinamans Point. In places the shrubbery is so dense that it is hard to get more than a fleeting glimpse of the birds.

The extra dampness at Chinamans Point compared with forest areas, and the variety of habitats (giving both food and shelter) that are now present probably contribute to the area being attractive to birds.

Ern Perkins

1 Antechinus, 2 Antechinus, 3 Antechinus.....

Bruce and Amanda Donaldson live on the eastern slopes of Mt Macedon. Bruce decided it was time to do something about the antechinus living in the lining of his hot water service (produced photo clearly showing evidence of large amount of antechinus droppings on hot water service) and so he started to set Elliott traps baited with bread and peanut butter.....14 days and 25 antechinuses later Bruce is wondering if they are beating him home after he releases them!

On one occasion he found two individuals in the trap and when he went to release them one had killed and started to eat the other!

PS. Elliott Traps are available for \$28 plus \$4.50 postage from Elliott Scientific Equipment, Upway (03-9754-2171).

"Get yourself an Elliott trap" by Bruce Donaldson

When you live in bushy areas like most of our members, it is always a bit risky using baits and mouse and rat traps if you think you've got rodents. And even if you do, it is not to say that you don't have antechinuses living in or around your house or shed as well. That's why it is not a bad idea to acquire an Elliott trap, which is the correct name for those little aluminum tunnels with a spring door that zoologists use in the field. By ringing Elliott Scientific Equipment in Upway (03-9754-2171), they'll send you one in the post for something like \$32 from memory. That is for their medium-sized one, which is about 13 inches long and 4 inches high. They are rust-proof and thus if you find you have caught a nasty, you can drop it straight in a bucket of water. I find a little bit of bread with some peanut butter on it seems to be popular with all species.

What is more, I'm finding all commercial rodenticides useless these days (they seem to thrive on it), so at least with a trap you know you've got your customer and not stonkered something cute in the process.

Cute and Cuddly Ring-tailed Possum?

Amanda and Bruce have also recently been watching with delight a Ring-tailed Possum feeding in shrubs just outside a window – such a wonderful experience to watch at such a close range. ...

BUT next morning when Amanda noticed her succulents with all the centres eaten out she was not so sure!

Swift Parrots at Muckleford

The swifties are still at Muckleford, 150 plus this morning (24/6). They have started feeding on the ground again. This morning I was surrounded by swift parrots feeding on lerp casings and what I think is shell grass seed heads. There are no trees in flower at the moment and I think the birds are surviving on what is on the ground – illustrating how important undisturbed understorey is for them. If this land was cleared the swifties would have no feed. Such a pity we can't get anyone to come out and study them.

Debbie Worland

Homing Magpies?

Chris Morris reported that a handfed Magpie from Daylesford had recently “gone berserk” and started attacking everything including its own reflection in a mirror. The ‘owners’ trapped it and took it down the road but it was back home before them.... So they trapped it again and took it to Castlemaine... but again it was there when they got home. Any suggestions?

Tree Clearing along the Pyrenees

Vicroads has put forward a planning application to remove 94 trees (Grey and Yellow Box, Yellow Gums and Stringybarks - 1/3 over 700mm in diameter) from Pyrenees Highway between Chewton and Elphinstone to allow barriers to be installed to make the road safe. CFNC has submitted a brief submission opposing the removal of so many trees - ensuring club representatives will be party to future discussions on this matter.

Offset Planting of Indigenous Species

The Shire's policy of offset planting (i.e. cleared plants have to be replaced with more plants) is to be commended. However, by providing specific information, local clubs such as ours could help increase the effectiveness of the policy and enhance the genetic integrity and biodiversity of the area. Detailed information provided to landowners/managers would be a valuable way to ensure the aims of such a policy are actually achieved.

We could help provide material that will explain –

- the importance of using indigenous plants (plants that are specific to this area)
- species lists of appropriate plants and suppliers of such plants
- that time is needed to allow time for plants to be ordered, seed collected, species grown and for best planting conditions to occur
- possible rate reductions/ incentives for individual efforts
- the advantages of indigenous species and danger of garden escapees.

CFNC fully supports the proposal suggesting that the Mt Alexander Shire undertake an active educational roll by providing such information for landowners and would be happy to assist in the process.

Scaring Fruit-eating Birds from Orchards

Most methods in current use are only effective in the short term as birds learn to ignore the usual deterrents. Now, (with due acknowledgement to CSIRO publications), researchers in South Australia have come up with an innovative solution based on software that identifies the bird species by processing bird calls recorded live in orchards and comparing these to known calls stored in the computer's memory. When a match is found, the program then commands the playing of one or other of a range of scaring responses pre-determined as effective in scaring results.

Each time a problem bird is detected the software chooses one of several different scaring sounds species-specific to that bird or flock of birds. The sound can be predator and alarm calls or just loud music and it can be alternating with more than one technique needed to optimise scaring efficiency.

The study focused mainly on the Adelaide Rosella, which is regarded in South Australia as the greatest threat to cherry crops. With existing techniques orchardists experience 30% damage to the fruit.

Software is only the first part to the project and the researchers believe that it can be developed commercially into affordable hardware that can become a permanent feature in orchards. The wide use of these systems would benefit birds that otherwise might be shot, poisoned or caught in nets.

Ref:(08) 8302 0028;Rodney.magazinovic@unisa.edu.au;
www.publish.csiro.au/ecos

Chris Morris

Bird Reports – Mid to late May 2005

At the Quince Tree - 30 White Winged Choughs in flight; grey fantail; and 6 fairy wrens feeding on the ground.

In Saint Street - 2 New Holland Honeyeaters feeding on native plants several times; 6 Silvereye Honeyeaters feeding on oak trees; 80 Galahs flying west over Saint Street in mid afternoon.

Noela Cain

Front page - Lock Ness Monster in Specimen Gully!

Ian Johnson sent in this drawing of a lizard looking like a Loch Ness monster. In fact it is a Blue Tongued Lizard (*Tiliqua scincoides*) in an icecream container - viewed through binoculars from his desk.

What's New on the Web

First Aid for Wildlife

Booking Forms for SEANA Spring Camp and ANN High Country Gathering Constitution

Mammals of Lauriston – Albert Golden

Observations

- Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos have been observed in the Botanic Gardens (Richard), flock of 100 on way to Melbourne (Helen), six in Carr's Road, Barkers Creek (Penny) and in the pine plantation (Rita).
- 28/6 Some Swift Parrots still present at Barkers Creek. Geraldine Harris
- Mt Morgan Wattle in flower. Ern Perkins
- Clusters of Creeping Mistletoe in trees along St Kilda Road opp. Gallery. George Broadway
- Helmeted Lapwings about and also flock of Straw-necked and White Ibis in paddock at Barkers Creek after the rain. Geraldine Harris.
- Approx. 20 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos near Scout Hall in Reckleben St. Athol Dorman.

SEANA Spring Campout –14-18 October 2005. “Exploring the Wilderness Coast: Mallacoota”. Hosted by Sale and District Field Naturalists' Club.

Friday: Dinner, Welcome and Information and SEANA Committee Meeting.

Saturday/Monday: Choice of full-day excursions –

- *Birding with local expert Bob Semmens and Casuarina Walk
- *Boat trip, birding on Goodwin Sands and Pittosporum Walk at Bastion Point
- *Mallacoota Bunker/ Shipwreck Creek area and Heathland Walk
- *Geology/ Double Creek Nature Walk
- *Genoa Peak and Genoa Falls

Sat. Dinner & Guest Speaker: David Hollands, author of “Owls. Journeys around the World.

Mon. Dinner & Guest Speaker: Local from the Mallacoota Historical Society

Sunday morning: Choice of half-day excursions –

- *Old Coast Road Walk
- *Betka Beach and Quarry Beach
- *Gipsy Point Genoa Falls
- *Mallacoota Walking Track around the town
- *Maxfields Rainforest and Mallacoota Lookout

Sun. Dinner & SEANA General Meeting

Tuesday: Cabbage Tree Palms: Cape Conran; and the mouth of the Snowy River flowing into the ocean; Marlo. Lunch and Farewell.

Cost: \$167. Accommodation information (November CN 2004)

NOTE! Breakfasts, lunches and accommodation are your own responsibility.

Registration and payment by July 29.

Information and forms from Ern Perkins Ph 5472 3124.

Newstead Wildlife Shelter – Barry and Dawn Angus
EMERGENCY NUMBERS 5476 2580 or 0428 571 752

Australian Naturalist's Network (ANN) Get-together.

" High Country in the Alpine Spring"

Jan. 16 – Feb. 2, 2006. Host: SEANA.

Naturalists from throughout Australia are invited to attend this ANN Get-together to be held in the High Country of Victoria and New South Wales during the the high country spring season when the alpine wild flowers are in full bloom.

Participants will be transported by coach to and from Melbourne airport or Myrtleford. In Myrtleford cars and caravans can be stored in a locked yard for the duration of the get-together.

The **Victorian section** will be based at Feathertop Chalet, Harrietville where there will be excursions to Mt Buffalo National Park, Mt Hotham and Mt Bogong areas within the Alpine NP and to forests of lower elevations and various evening presentations.

On Thursday Jan 26 participants will travel to the **Snowy Mountains region of NSW** via Khancoban and the Alpine Way. While staying at the Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre for 7 nights visits will be made to the Kosciusko summit, Charlottes Pass, Perisher, Smiggins Holes and Sawpit Creek in the Kosciusko National Park

On Thursday Feb 2 coaches will return to Myrtleford or Melbourne Airport.

Cost: \$1600-1650 Final price in Sept. (depending on participant numbers).

Bookings and \$500 deposit per person, by August 1. Application forms available from Ern Perkins. Ph 5472 3124

Extra Events

Sept. Sat 3 and Sun 4. Bioblitz. Spring in Bendigo Bush activity - see last month's article – site still to be decided. Castlemaine FNC members are encouraged to participate.

September 14, 21, 28, and October 5, 12. Wednesday Evening Wildflower Walks. One of the joys of the FN year is the anticipation of the spring wildflower season. If you would be willing to lead a Wednesday evening walk, please contact Geraldine on Ph. 5474 2244.

Sept. 30 – Oct. 7. Birds Australia Annual Congress and Campout , Bendigo 2005 "Challenges for Bird Conservation in the 21st Century: Birds in a Changing Environment"

Congress Fri.- Sun. Keynote Speaker: Prof. Richard Kingsford. (Research on conservation of wetlands and waterbirds in eastern Australia) and others.

Campout Mon.- Fri. Excursions to Bendigo region birding locations with evening talks/slide presentations.

Information: Ern Perkins Ph 54723124 or Chris Morris Ph 9556 4221 or www.birdsaustralia.com.au/congress No cut off date for bookings..

From the Business Meeting 23/6/05

- Maldon Landcare has erected **two new exclusion fences** on the west and east side of Nuggetty providing two more possible quadrat sites when growth is sufficient to allow plant identification.
- Independent panel hearing to consider **C24** submissions to take place in September with **directions meeting to be held on July 11**. Club response for hearing dependent on Council's revised position.
- Club representatives will attend **Lancare Steering Committee meetings** held on July 13, August 24 and October 5 – 5.30-7.30pm.
- **Replanting along Pyrenees Highway** of Dianellas etc collected from culvert worksite to take place opposite 60kph sign at Steiner School, on August 3. Bring shovel, mattock, bucket and morning tea.
- **Planting in Botanic Gardens** of plants ordered from Frances Cincotta to take place on August 10. BYO tools and morning tea. (see above)
- **Great Dividing Trail Report:** *Langs Lookout Road is closed until mid September; *Taradale Walking Group is planning a 3-day walk from Castlemaine to Daylesford along the Dry Diggings Track during first week in April 2006. *The Consultants for the Chewton Urban Design Framework and the Walks and Trails Advisory Board are looking at linking the trail with Chewton by providing a route that will come under the railway and in front of the viaduct to the centre of Chewton.

Articles Welcome - Articles, reports and observations can be left at Tonks Bros. in Barkers St. or sent to Geraldine Harris, P.O.Box 703, Castlemaine, 3450. Ph. 5474 2244, or gedharris@castlemaine.net Please submit articles by the fourth Thursday of the month.

Disclaimer - The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Club.

2005 Committee

Rita Mills (Pres).....Ph. 5472 4553	George Broadway (Sec)..Ph. 5472 2513
Hans van Gemert (Treas)Ph. 5472 1082	Richard Piesse.....Ph.5472 3191
Ern Perkins (Web).....Ph. 5472 3124	Athol Dorman.....Ph. 5472 4429
Nigel Harland.....Ph. 5474 8246	Chris MorrisPh. 9885 4221
Geraldine Harris (Ed)..Ph. 5474 2244, gedharris@castlemaine.net	

Subscriptions for 2005

Ordinary membership: Single \$22, Family \$30

Pensioner or student: Single \$19, Family \$24

The subscription includes postage of the *Castlemaine Naturalist*.

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Programme - July 2005

General meetings (second Friday of each month, except January) are held in the Uniting Church (UCA) Hall (enter from Lyttleton St.) at 8.00 pm.

Excursions (Saturday following the general meeting) leave from the carpark opposite Castle Motel, Duke Street at 1.30pm sharp unless stated otherwise. BYO morning and afternoon tea.

Outdoor excursions are likely to be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. There are NO excursions on total fire ban days.

Business meetings - fourth Thursday of each month, except December, at 27 Doveton Street, at 7.30 pm. All members are invited to attend.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME AT CLUB MEETINGS AND EXCURSIONS.

JULY

Fri 8. Mistletoes. Lindy MacRaild, Biodiversity Team, Deakin Uni. UCA, 8pm.

Sat 9. Mistletoes. Inglewood via Dunolly and Tarnagulla. Leader: Ern Perkins. Ph. 5472 3124. Depart from carpark opp. motel in Duke Street at 10am sharp. BYO lunch and afternoon tea.

Sat 30. Roadside cleanup. Meet near Tait's Decorative Iron, Pyrenees Highway, Castlemaine at 8.30am. Gloves, garbage bags and red safety vests supplied. Wear sturdy footwear. Contact Hans van Gemert, Ph. 5472 1082.

AUGUST

Wed 3. Replanting along Pyrenees Highway. Opposite 60kph sign at Steiner School at 9am. BYO shovel, mattock, bucket and morning tea.

Sat 6, Sun 7. National Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater Survey. Details at July Meeting / Spotters wanted. Contact: Deb Worland. Ph 5472 2474.

Wed 10. Planting in the Botanic Gardens. Mary St./Froomes Rd. Corner, 9am. Wear sturdy footwear, gloves, hat etc. BYO tools (as above) and morning tea.

Fri 12. Ecological Fire Management Planning. Kane Weeks, Ranger in charge of Fire and Environmental Programmes in the Northern Goldfields. 8pm UCA.

Sat 13. Boundaries of Castlemaine. Leader: E. Perkins, Ph 5472 3124. Depart from carpark opp. motel in Duke Street at 1.30pm sharp.

Thu 25. Broom Pull. Meet at the Mary St./Froomes Rd. Corner at 9am. Wear sturdy footwear, gloves, hat etc. BYO drinks and morning tea.

SEPTEMBER

Fri 9. Speaker to be confirmed.

Sat 10. Mandurang – Bendigo National Park. Leaders: R. Piesse/ R. Mills.

Wed 14, 21, 28. Wednesday Evening Wildflower Walks. All these walks depart at 4pm. sharp and return 5.30pm. Leaders wanted-Geraldine Ph 54742244

Sept 30 –Oct 7 Birds Australia Congress - Bendigo.

Contact, C Morris. Ph. 9885 4221 or Ern Perkins Ph 5472 3124

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club Inc., PO Box 324, Castlemaine. Inc #A0003010B

Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~cfnc>